

Congress and the Trump administration are moving quickly and decisively to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

*“The impact of the coronavirus can be felt in every corner of our nation—every person and family, every sector of the economy. Our way of life has been truly shaken, but not our resolve. We can weather this storm, but we all need a little help. Many Americans – sick or not – will need to stay home from work. Many will need testing and care. Our state and local health care providers and first responders are on the front lines of this fight. I have a message for all of you: help is on the way, and more is coming.” – E&C GOP Leader Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)*

#### H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

**Topline:** The bill provides an additional **\$2.5 billion** in emergency supplemental appropriations for the U.S. response to coronavirus, ensures free tests for COVID-19, provides emergency paid leave for workers who become sick, or have to care for a loved one who falls ill, food assistance for the needy, strengthens unemployment insurance, and provides, assistance, support and flexibility for small businesses.

- [H.R. 6201 Key Facts](#)
- [House GOP Conference H.R. 6201 Summary](#)
- [House Appropriations H.R. 6201 Summary](#)
- [House Ways & Means H.R. 6201 Summary](#)
- [What Small Businesses Need to Know](#)

Of the items included under Energy and Commerce’s jurisdiction:

- **\$1.2 billion** to help cover the costs of COVID-19 testing, including \$142 million to eliminate copay requirements for servicemembers and veterans.
- **\$1 billion** into the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for the National Disaster Medical System to pay provider claims for health services consisting of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 related items and services for uninsured individuals.
- **\$64 million** to the Indian Health Service (IHS) for health services consisting of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 related items and services.
- **\$250 million** to the Administration for Community Living for activities authorized under the Older Americans Act, consisting of Home-Delivered Nutrition Services, Congregate Nutrition Services, and Nutrition Services for Native Americans.
- **Ensures coverage of testing for COVID-19 by requiring all commercial insurance to cover diagnosis of COVID-19 with no cost-sharing**, including the administration of tests and office visits, urgent care center visits, and emergency room (ER) visits related to testing for COVID-19 (Section 6001)
- **Waives cost sharing for seniors under the Medicare Part B and Medicare Advantage Program** relating to testing for COVID-19 (Sections 6002-6003)
- **Ensures coverage of COVID-19 testing under Medicaid and CHIP** at no cost-sharing (Section 6004)
- Codifies HHS administrative action to provide temporary liability protections for approved personal respiratory devices under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, **to help increase the supply of respirators** (Section 6005)

- **Provides coverage of testing for COVID-19 for Indian Health Service (IHS)** at no cost sharing (Section 6007)
- **Provides states with increased Medicaid Funding** for all medical services for the duration of the public health emergency (Section 6008)
- **Provides U.S. territories with increased Medicaid funding** for all medical services for the next two fiscal years (Section 6009)
- Makes technical **improvements to Medicare telehealth authority** to make it easier to waive current prohibitions surrounding telehealth during the current public health emergency (Section 6010)

#### **H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act**

**Topline:** The bill provides **\$8.3 billion** to increase the availability of tests, support public and private efforts toward developing a vaccine, purchasing essential equipment and supplies, and assisting state and local health departments.

- [House Appropriations H.R. 6074 Summary](#)

Of the items included under Energy and Commerce's jurisdiction:

- **More than \$4 billion** to make diagnostic tests more broadly available; to support treatments to ease the symptoms of those infected with the virus; and to invest in vaccine development and to procure vaccines when they are available. Additionally, funds were made available to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to protect the integrity of medical products manufactured overseas and identify and prevent potential shortages.
- **\$2.2 billion** for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a robust response, including early \$1 billion exclusively for state and local response efforts; and \$300 million for CDC's Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund.
- The package also includes a bipartisan provision championed by E&C Republican Leader Walden to **improve the use of telehealth during this public health emergency, allowing more patients to get the care they need at home to avoid potentially overcrowded health care facilities especially in rural areas.**

#### **Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAIA)**

On June 24, 2019, President Trump signed the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAIA) into law, which modernized the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, or PAHPA. This law sets up the framework to deal precisely with this type of an outbreak.

- Reauthorizes our nation's public health preparedness and response programs.
- Bolsters the nation's health security strategy, strengthens the country's emergency response workforce, helps coordinate multiple health entities, and accelerates the advanced research, development, and federal purchasing of medical countermeasures.

#### **Additional Resources:**

- [E&C COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [Coronavirus Guidelines for Americans from the White House](#)
- [Download Graphics from the White House Coronavirus Task Force and More](#)